



Coastal Communications



GEORGIA COASTAL ASSESSMENT

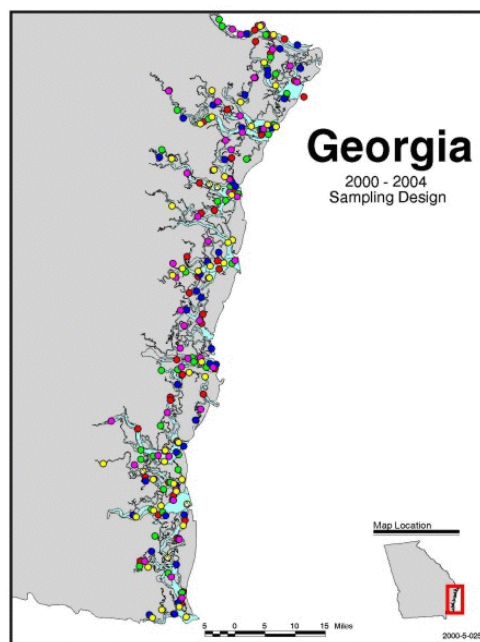
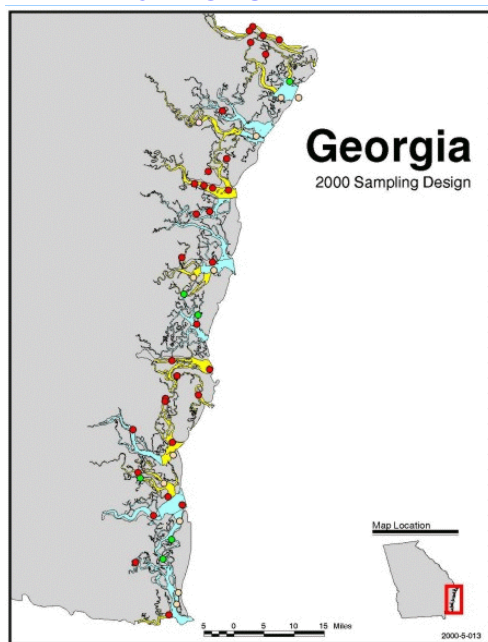


BACKGROUND

The US EPA's National Coastal Assessment (Coastal 2000) is a partnership between EPA's Office of Research and Development and 24 coastal states and Puerto Rico to assess the condition of the coastal estuaries in each state and to aggregate this information into a national "snapshot". An example of one of these state partnerships is with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Coastal Resources Division. We are entering into a five-year joint effort to evaluate the condition of Georgia's coastal resources. The sampling for this effort fits seamlessly into the larger national effort to assess the condition of the Nation's coastal resources.

The Georgia Coastal 2000 uses a probabilistic design and a common set of survey indicators. Georgia Coastal Resources Division will conduct the sampling and assess the condition of their coastal resources using the indicators listed below. The maps illustrated below show the statistically-arrayed sites that are included in the year 2000 surveys and for the entire program.

COASTAL INDICATORS



Water Quality	Sediment Quality	Biota - Fish and Benthos
Dissolved oxygen Salinity, temperature, depth pH Nutrients Chlorophyll	Grain size Total organic carbon Sediment chemistry Sediment toxicity	Community structure External pathology Tissue analyses

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Kevin Summers at NHEERL's Gulf Ecology Division at (850) 934-9244 or at summers.kevin@epa.gov or Stuart Stevens at the Georgia Coastal Resources Division at 912-264-7218 or stuart-stevens@coastal.dnr.state.ga.us.